

been implemented fully. Most Americans have yet to learn how much more money they will see in their paychecks.

Mr. Speaker, tax reform has placed us on the right course to keep our booming economy humming at a good clip and sets the trajectory for even more significant growth in the future. I predict a very prosperous new year.

#### STANDING FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just a couple of hours ago, the Republicans on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence voted to release the Nunes report. At the same time, they voted not to allow the rebuttal offered by the Democrats to be released.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, as a Member who has been through impeachment of the Federal judiciary and a President, not one time did I see any sidetrack opportunities or efforts to dismantle that ongoing investigation.

We are not in an impeachment proceeding. We have a special counsel that is attempting to provide for the American people a detailed and thoughtful investigation.

Why the rule of law has been so obliterated by our Republican friends and the idea of democracy and the protection of the institutions of this Nation have been undermined, I am shocked.

The American people are not clamoring for the destruction of the FBI, nor are they clamoring for the destruction and undermining of Special Counsel Mueller's report.

Let us stand for the principles of democracy and the Constitution. This kind of undermining is dastardly and embarrassing.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF TIM NELSON

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tim Nelson, a beloved father, husband, community leader, and football coach who passed away on January 16, after a courageous battle against colorectal cancer since 2013.

Despite spending weeks receiving treatment in the hospital and going in and out of remission, Tim's resolve and bravery in his battle against this disease never wavered.

The support he and his family received in the Metro East and the River Bend never wavered either. A member of the Calhoun High School's 1992 State championship football team, Tim served as head football coach at Marquette Catholic High School in Alton and Duplo High School before returning to his home school, Calhoun High School, as an assistant in 2013.

Each of these communities and the entire region never stopped rallying around Tim and his family. I am proud to honor him and his life in this Chamber, and I ask you to join me in keeping his wife, Casey; and young son, Crew, in your thoughts and prayers.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF PAUL BOOTH

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today with a heavy heart. A dear friend of mine, Mr. PAUL Booth, we lost him 12 days ago to leukemia. Mr. Booth was a man who dedicated his life to the simple idea of fairness—fairness for workers, fairness in all aspects of life.

Paul Booth was a leading adviser to nearly every union president over the last several years at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. He also worked hard to lift up dignity in all aspects of his life.

He was a student organizer and brought attention to the folly of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, and he had been active in making Americans' lives better his entire life.

He understood the very simple idea that working people have dignity and that they must be treated to reflect that dignity by their government. He also understood that the linkage between hard work and prosperity should always be close and tight. He recognized that, in our country today, you can work very hard and still only make it. That is why he was one of the first people to work for a living wage policy in this country. He was fighting for a living wage before it was popular.

Paul Booth also happened to have a marvelous partner. Her name is Heather Booth, and everybody knows Heather.

But I just want to say, when people who make a life of service pass from this life, it is important that we recognize the tremendous debt we owe them.

I want to thank Paul and Heather Booth for their mentorship of me and for their service to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING KANGA ROOF IN BUCKS COUNTY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a company in my district that is making a huge impact by giving back to our community. Kanga Roof, a company that has been providing roofing in the Bucks County area for over 30 years, celebrated its 10th Holiday Roof Giveaway this past December.

Every year for the past 10 years, Kanga Roof has held a contest to provide a new roof to a deserving family in our community. This year, they selected my constituent, Bettemarie

Bond, who is a tireless advocate for individuals with mitochondrial disease and those receiving IV infusions and tube feeding, whom I have had the honor of working with on this cause.

Kanga Roof views their annual Holiday Roof Giveaway as a way of giving back to our community and making our community stronger. I would like to commend them on their commitment to our community and to encourage all of our constituents to follow Kanga Roof's lead by being good neighbors and giving back to our community.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO CONGRESSIONAL AWARD BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's withdrawal of the appointment of the following individual to the Congressional Award Board on January 25, 2018:

Mr. Steve Hart, Washington, D.C.

#### RELEASE THE FOUR-PAGE MEMO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House this evening with several of my colleagues principally to thank Judiciary Committee Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman TREY GOWDY, and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman DEVIN NUNES for their tireless pursuit of the truth.

There is a four-page memo. I have read it. Over 190 of my Republican colleagues have read it. Some Democrats have read it, and some have boycotted reading it. It details circumstances that are deeply troubling to me and that I believe will be deeply troubling to many Americans.

This memo encapsulates an entire year of work by these committees and by these committee chairmen, and they are to be commended for the excellent job that they have done, for the professionalism that they have undertaken, and for the stunning facts that they have uncovered that will soon be available for the American people.

I will have more to say on this throughout the hour, Mr. Speaker, but first I yield to one of my colleagues in the Congress who was one of the first and loudest voices calling for transparency at the highest levels and to the maximum extent possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GAETZ for organizing this important Special Order and all my colleagues for coming to the House floor tonight encouraging the President of the United States now to certify the release of this memo to the American public.

The American public is a lot smarter than a whole lot of other people give them credit for. Present them with the facts and the truth, and they can form their own independent judgment as to what transpired. That was the first thought that came to my mind when I went to the basement a week before last—the basement of the House Capitol—to read this classified memo of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, that this memo should be immediately released to the American public so that they have all of the facts.

In addition to releasing the memo, I believe it is important to be releasing relevant material sourced in the memo.

Now, tonight, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence voted to publicly release this memo to the American public, and, at the same time, the House Democrats came to the committee calling for the declassification and public release of their memo.

□ 1945

Let me add a little bit more context on this memo that the House Democrats came to the floor asking to be released.

They did not allow the voting members of the House Intelligence Committee to read the memo tonight before voting to declassify and publicly release it.

Let me repeat that. The House Democrats, led by Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF, went to the House Intelligence Committee tonight calling for the public release of their memo, asking for their colleagues to declassify the memo and to publicly release it immediately, without giving them the opportunity to read it first.

I can speak for myself. I haven't read the memo that the House Democrats offered up tonight. I haven't been granted any access to read it. I am not aware of any other of my colleagues who have been able to read it. I can't even confirm it exists.

After the committee met, it was fascinating to watch the minority members of the House Intelligence Committee going straight from the hearing room to the cameras to give their narrative. At no point did they mention whatsoever, when they were saying that they were outraged that the majority members of that committee didn't vote to publicly release it, at no point did they mention that they never gave them the opportunity to read it first.

What you don't see, at the same time, are the majority members of the House Intelligence Committee racing off to all those same cameras to give their same side of the narrative, the members of that House Intelligence Committee.

What we are asking for is the American public to get the facts so that they can form the judgment of this FISA abuse for themselves.

I, too, applaud the leadership of Mr. NUNES and the House Intelligence Com-

mittee for their work to restore faith with the American people.

As a former Army intelligence officer and JAG officer myself, I understand the importance of giving our intelligence agencies the critical tools they need to protect our homeland, assist our troops on the front lines, and surveil our enemies. However, it is critical that we strike a balance between national security and civil liberty to prevent any gross violation of individual liberties under the guise of national security.

Congress has the responsibility of ensuring an appropriate balance is struck, and when it is not, to release information we feel is in the national interest and of public importance. Today, Congress took an important step in making this possible.

Americans deserve the truth. To pull the wool over the eyes of the American public insults their intelligence and debases the freedoms and liberties on which our government was founded. Government transparency and accountability should be neither partisan nor divisive.

I would urge my colleagues on either side of the aisle, especially those who have voted against its release, to evaluate and reflect upon their position and come together united in favor of our belief that the American public is a lot smarter than many give them credit for. Give them the facts, and we have faith they will be able to form their own independent conclusions.

Now it is up to the President. I would encourage him to release the memo. I would also encourage him to release relevant material sourced in it. Americans have the right know. If we as their elected Representatives fail to stand up for them, who will?

The only way forward is to give the American public more information, not less. Release the memo.

I thank Congressman MATT GAETZ for his leadership throughout this entire process and his efforts to make sure the American public learns more, not less.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his persuasive leadership. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) was one of the first to sign letters to members of the House Intelligence Committee, and particularly its chairman, expressing the sense of this body that we supported the transparency that the gentleman spoke of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue and for putting this hour together.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the secret memo in a secure setting. After having reviewed the contents of the classified memo relating to FISA abuses, I support its full release to the public. Americans deserve the truth, and Congress should always strive for transparency.

I am stunned at the previous administration's underhanded surveillance methods and misuse of power at the highest levels of the FBI and Department of Justice. This should never have been permitted to happen.

Moreover, all Federal agencies, including the FBI, should be held to a high standard and always be held accountable for their actions. The issues that the memo raises must be brought to light and dealt with responsibly.

I am pleased that the House Intelligence Committee voted tonight to release the memo, but our work does not end there. We must continually strive for integrity and openness within all levels of government.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), who serves on the Judiciary Committee. He has worked very hard from the very beginning to ascertain the bases of claims made and is a true investigator at heart.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for leading tonight's Special Order. It has been an eye-opening year in office for me, and it is an honor to serve with Representative GAETZ on the Judiciary Committee in the pursuit of justice.

Exactly 11 nights ago, Mr. Speaker, I walked into a secure vault, signed one of the most detailed nondisclosure documents I have ever seen, and viewed "the memo." Everything I read was what I expected to read. That is what is outrageous to me. There was not much that I did not expect to find.

I thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Chairman GOWDY, Chairman NUNES, and members of the House Intelligence Committee who have now voted to present that memo to the public. I am looking forward to President Trump shortly declassifying that memo permanently.

I have heard people say to me: You are eroding trust in government and in the finest law enforcement agency in the country, the FBI, with your continual attacks. But they don't understand that we are not attacking the FBI. We are seeking clarity, transparency, and an understanding of what went on under the leadership of the Department of Justice and the FBI in the previous administration. To not reveal that to the public is what erodes trust in their government.

Nothing in this memo will impair our national security. But if we are to withhold this memo from the American people, I believe that, instead, would harm our national security because it would harm the integrity of those agencies, and it would further erode the trust that Americans have in their government.

The American people deserve to see the information that I have read, that Mr. GAETZ has read, and that over 100 Members of Congress have read. The leadership of Chairman DEVIN NUNES has made a tremendous difference, and this truth will be exposed. I congratulate him.

Mr. Speaker, this memo will provide clarity and understanding. This is the memo, when it gets out, where the people will say: We need to make changes. We have got to have people in these law enforcement agencies and that lead these agencies and these bodies be trustworthy, follow the law, and not abuse their power for political gain or purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I trust my constituents. Frankly, in the last week, I met with literally hundreds of my constituents. The most common theme talked about was: When will that classified memo be released so I can read it, so I can make a determination, so I can understand what has been going on in our government?

I am so pleased that the House Intelligence Committee voted today to answer the question. In short order you will be able to read this and make up your own mind. That is why I encourage President Trump to quickly declassify the memo.

Again, I thank my colleague, Representative GAETZ, and all who have been working on this issue to make this memo open and transparent for the people.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his service on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD), another of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida; he has definitely been a leader on this issue.

I have got to tell you that I, too, am happy the Intelligence Committee has agreed to release the memo. When I was back home in Texas last week, it was the number one issue people were talking to me about.

I want to take a minute and step back and do a little bit of a history lesson.

The Fourth Amendment to our Constitution arose from some of the abusive practices that were going on in the Colonies. The King of England would send his troops to rifle through people's effects without a warrant. Our Fourth Amendment said we are not going to let that happen in these new United States of America. We are going to require the government to get a warrant before they go through people's papers. We are protected from illegal searches.

I have been worried since the first day I got here in Congress, but in our effort to protect ourselves—and perhaps out of fear, some of it, perhaps, warranted—we are eroding those rights.

So, as this memo comes out, regardless of what is in it, we need to be looking at the process: how we went to a secret court to get permission to get this information, how that information was gathered, what that information was, who vetted it, how thoroughly it was vetted, how the judges reacted, and,

eventually, what came out and determined whether we need to reform that process to protect Americans' rights.

Yes, we all have a right to know what is going on with our government. Yes, I am worried about career bureaucrats or elected officials abusing the power of the government to get information on their political enemies, like the King was doing back in the days of the Revolutionary War. This is our opportunity to make sure that doesn't happen in these United States.

Let's not lose sight of what the issue is here, and that is protecting the people not only from foreigners who look to do us harm, but also from an oppressive government that abuses its power to spy on American citizens.

I am glad this memo is going to come out. I urge President Trump to promptly release it and, in fact, go beyond that: look at some of the sources of the material in it, determine that we can reveal some of those sources without jeopardizing our ability to gather intelligence, and release the source materials so we know what people knew when they made the decision to pursue the material covered in this memo.

I think this is a great time for this country. I think this is our opportunity to remind ourselves that we do have a right to be safe and secure in our persons and papers from a government that may be trying to do more than protect us.

Maybe some of these folks in the government have shifted from what we need to protect America, such as, well, the best way to protect America is to protect ourselves and our jobs and our political agenda.

That is not what the job of our law enforcement and intelligence community is. It is to protect us from those who want to do us harm, especially foreigners. I want to give them the power to do that, the ability to do that, but I do not want to give them the ability to affect elections, to go after their political enemies, to spy on any one of us because they can.

Human nature is such that, if we give the government too much power, there are those who will abuse it. So we in Congress have got to keep our eye on the ball at all times and protect the constitutional rights that our forefathers and our Founding Fathers gave us and that our men and women in uniform fight for every day that they are in service to this country.

□ 2000

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), a fellow member of the Judiciary Committee, another of the first Members of Congress to demand the appointment of a second special counsel to look into matters such as this.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for yielding to me. I appreciate the gentleman for taking the lead on this issue back some weeks or months ago to bring a resolution to the House

Judiciary Committee to call for special counsel to more broadly investigate all of the defugalties that have been taking place in this country, driven by political partisanship on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I look back and I think about what the attitude was of President Trump—actually, even before the election and shortly after—when I listened to him, and he more or less expressed this sentiment, which was that, with Hillary Clinton and her transgressions and the way she had handled the classified material and up to the secret server next to the bathroom up in New York in her place, essentially, the President's position was that we need to move America forward. We should not be dug deeply into going backwards on this or looking back over our shoulder. Let's move forward. The public has litigated this in the election.

Now, I think that is where President Trump wanted it to be, but it wasn't to be because the left could not accept the idea that the American people had spoken. They began to manufacture and continue the manufacture this Russian investigation, these allegations that were collusion allegations with the Russians to try to manipulate an American election.

I don't think anybody doubts that the Russians made some effort at that, but all of us doubt that they had any impact whatsoever on our election. Those of us, at least on this side of the aisle, have seen zero information and zero evidence that the campaign of President Trump had any kind of relationship that went on with the Russians, that promoted it or colluded in any way. But because there needed to be some explanation for this phenomenal Presidential election of Donald Trump, we had to be drug back into this Russian investigation over and over again. Now, this began within 2 weeks of the President's election, after about November 8 or so.

Then as that unfolded, Mr. Speaker, then we saw what was really going on here. We got into about February or March of last year. At that point, I said: They are not going to relent on this Russian investigation business. They are going to continue to belabor this point. The election has already been settled and it is not in question, as far as the results of the polls are concerned. We have a President. Let's honor the President. Let's honor the will of the American people. Let's respect the decision made at the polls.

But, instead, the pressure continued on and on, allegations complicit with the mainstream media, the fake news, as we have now finally come to know them, I think, by habit and fact. At that point, I said: If they will not let up, then it is going to be an obligation to dig and drill deeply into all of the things that bring us together, from Huma Abedin and Anthony Weiner all the way across the board, from Hillary and the sham investigation, the questioning of her on July 2, 2016, on and on

throughout the whole spectrum of things.

It became an obligation to drill to the complete bottom of all of the allegations that had been made from the investigation that surely didn't look legitimate to us, as Mr. GAETZ and I and others on the Judiciary Committee began to question people from the FBI and the people from the Justice Department and, at that time, James Comey, the Director of the FBI. We put those pieces together.

Each one of those little incidents that were testified to kind of stood up okay on their own, but when you put them together in the string of it had to be an unbelievable string of coincidences that were presented before the Judiciary Committee and the other committees here on the Hill, it became clear to us, initiated by Mr. GAETZ, that we need to go much more deeply into this and much more quickly. A good number of us supported a resolution to call for special counsel.

Now, I support the idea of an additional special counsel to broaden this. I would write the language even more broadly than the original resolution. But we should keep in mind what is going on on this Hill today, that is, that there are, by my count, at least, seven different congressional committees that are investigating this broad picture of the subject matter that we are discussing here today.

On top of that, we have Robert Mueller's investigation as a special counsel. Additionally, we have an IG investigation going on in the Justice Department under Michael Horowitz.

Michael Horowitz has a good reputation. He has about 450 investigators all together, all of whom are probably not working on this. I would be surprised if they were. So there are seven reports from committees that will eventually come out, Mr. Speaker, and one from Robert Mueller that is going to come out and one from the IG that is going to come out.

This is pretty confusing to try to understand the subject matter that they are addressing. It is defined a little bit differently from committee to committee and from the assigned investigation groups, but I will envision this:

Our Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, sits there in the Justice Department having, in an honorable way, recused himself from the Russian investigation, which keeps his hands off of that. The recommendation, as I understand that, came from Rod Rosenstein, the acting U.S. Attorney General in the event that Jeff Sessions isn't there to be the Attorney General. That was in the recommendation, by the testimony that I believe I remember, that Jeff Sessions should recuse himself from the Russian investigation, and that is the man who made the appointment of Robert Mueller.

So when I look at this whole picture, our Attorney General's job is a tough one, but it is one I think he can do bet-

ter than anyone else in this country or on this planet, and that is make sense of all of these investigations, seven congressional investigations, an IG investigation, and a special counsel's investigation. That adds up to nine, by my estimation.

Now, people are human. So that says to me that these assignments of these investigations are either going to overlap or there are going to be gaps. When you have nine of them all together, there will be overlapping and there will be gaps. Where there are overlaps, there is likely to be some contradiction.

So the job of the Attorney General is to look at this whole picture and put this back together in a way that you can figure out what the contradictions are, fill in the gaps, investigate the places that haven't been investigated by the assignments of these various committees and the special counsel, and then deliver to the American people the right kind of view on the justice that needs to come. If there are indictments, to make that call for those indictments, clearly and unequivocally, based upon factual evidence.

That is why I support this memo being released in the vote of the Select Committee on Intelligence today. It is essential that the American people get to the truth. They can't absorb this truth all in one day. It has to come out a piece at a time because we are human and they are human.

So I encourage the Attorney General to keep his hand on this in the steady way that he has. I am very confident that the decisions made on the Select Committee on Intelligence are the correct ones, and I am very confident that the President will make a decision to release the memo so the American people can get at the truth. How far the truth takes us, history will write that book.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for putting this all together here this evening.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for being a clarion voice for calling this Congress and this administration to act in a way that is consistent with the values and the principles of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 33 minutes remaining.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I will not take that full allotment of time. I will say, though, that it is worth repeating the great work that Chairman BOB GOODLATTE has done in the Judiciary Committee; the excellent work that TREY GOWDY has done, the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee; and the excellent work that Chairman DEVIN NUNES has done. Each of these committees has jurisdiction over a different component part of the information that is laid out before the American people that has given

rise to so many concerns about bias, departure from standard practices, familial relationships, and the potential political corrosion of institutions that we have to rely on for an effective democracy.

I also want to thank the thousands of people who work in the FBI and the Department of Justice who are patriots, who go to work every day to protect us from threats at home and abroad, who really do do a great job in defense of this country. It is not their work that we question; in fact, it is their work we hope to empower.

When you have circumstances where folks at the head shed or the leading bureaucrats can rip investigations away from field offices, can alter the contents of information that is shared with the American people, it undermines the work that true law enforcement members are doing. We want to highlight and honor that work while, at the same time, exercising our oversight function to go after the bad conduct and, where we find it systemic, institute reforms so that it does not happen again.

The FBI and the Department of Justice should never be a political weapon used to go after adversaries. This is an issue where we ought to have more bipartisan agreement, Mr. Speaker. While I am grateful that the Republicans on the Intelligence Committee this evening were able to carry the day in the fight for transparency, I am disappointed that these issues led to party-line votes.

The reality is that all Americans—Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or members of the Whig Party—have an interest in ensuring that we have systems in place that protect our constitutional rights and liberties. We all have a stake in the action to ensure that, no matter which party wins or loses an election, the political apparatus of intelligence won't be used to go after enemies or people we disagree with.

I believe this was an opportunity missed, but it won't be the last one. I believe that the President is going to declassify this information within the 5-day window allowed to him. When he does, all Americans will see why Republicans have been concerned with the information we have learned. Then the opportunity will arise to work together, to take these facts, to take what we know, and to liberate ourselves from the partisanship of this town and to try to make things better so that, in the future, you don't have a circumstance where one investigation is called a headquarter special and taken away from the Washington field office, as the Hillary Clinton email scandal was.

We certainly don't want cases where people's family members—familial relationships, spousal relationships—influence the outcomes of decisions; and we also don't want systems in place that allow leaks to the media within the apparatus of intelligence to cloud

our mind, to cloud our judgment, to cloud the facts, or to cloud the review of our courts.

So, again, while I am proud of the work of the people who have spent a year investigating these matters, while I am confident in the findings of this report, I still remain disappointed that we don't have more unity to ensure that these types of abuses never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the President of the United States will walk down the center aisle. He will address this floor. There might be a few more folks than there are here this evening. I hope that the first thing he does is hand to the Speaker of the House his consent and his agreement to allow transparency to rein, to declassify this memo, to put it before the American people, and then let's have a great debate about its consequences and about the opportunity that it presents to make things better so that these things never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 101. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

□ 2015

#### A THREAT TO LABOR UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand to anchor this special hour because this Nation is faced with a very serious threat. As a matter of fact, it is a devious threat to the labor unions, our great labor unions that have played a most fundamental role in establishing the greatness of the economy of our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this evening, first I want to thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. CEDRIC RICHMOND from Louisiana, for his great leadership. I appreciate him giving me this opportunity to anchor this special hour.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the staffs of the CBC, Ms. Caren Street, who has worked very closely with my staffer, Ms. Seema Ibrahim, who has done a remarkable job.

Our whole team of many Congressmen from every sector of this country, every part of this country, is going to come before this House of Representatives in these next 60 minutes to explain and expose to the American people two important things.

First of all, we want to illustrate our deep understanding of the great value of the labor unions to this great country.

We also want to expose the great threat that is now being faced by our labor unions. The first group of our labor unions that is facing this threat are the public sector unions, most pointedly because in a matter of a few weeks, the Supreme Court will take up a case, *Janus v. AFSCME*.

This *Janus* case is designed to remove what has already been established as the constitutionality of public service unions to be able to mandate fees and dues for their membership, which will be a catastrophic threat to the survival of these unions. So we want to explain that. We want to also share the greatness of this. So this is where we are.

I want to ask those who are listening over C-SPAN tonight all across this country to call a neighbor, call a friend, tell them to tune in and listen to these Members of Congress pour out the truth about what is at stake with this *Janus* court case that will be coming up before the Supreme Court.

The first union that will be dealt with is AFSCME, but it is far more than just AFSCME. It is the public sector unions that will be ruled as to whether it is constitutional or not for them to have dues to be able to play.

This case comes from an individual, Mr. Janus, in Illinois who disagreed with political endorsements.

What is important to understand going forward, Mr. Speaker, is that the constitutionality has already been upheld.

On top of that, if there is any union member who does not agree with those political endorsements, he has a right to get a financial rebate for that part of the dues that will go to political endorsements.

So if Mr. Janus' concerns have been dealt with, then why this case?

That is the Achilles' heel that will prove the deviousness of what is before us.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I bring on our first speaker. This gentleman, Representative BOBBY SCOTT, is the ranking member of our Education and the Workforce Committee. On top of that, he is a fierce fighter for working families and he is a leader in making sure that labor unions will continue to have the rights that they fought so hard for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, unions empower workers with the freedom to negotiate for a fair return on their work and they provide a collective voice to advocate for policies that benefit working people.

Union workers, including those in the public sector, have more access to paid leave, medical and retirement benefits, and higher pay than workers who are not unionized. Children of union members experience more upward mobility than children of workers who are not covered with union contracts, and States with higher union density have stronger workplace protections.

There is a long history of unions helping the least powerful secure dignity on the job. This is the 50th anniversary of the Memphis sanitation workers' strike in 1968. After two workers were crushed in garbage compactors, the Memphis sanitation workers peacefully protested for better pay and safer working conditions. They sought representation from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME. They marched with placards that simply stated: "I am a man."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., long recognized that the fight for civil rights was fundamentally linked to economic justice and he gave his last public address before his assassination on behalf of these workers.

Despite police brutality and the deployment of 4,000 National Guardsmen, the strike was ultimately successful and AFSCME negotiated higher wages and safer conditions.

The unions representing the workers in the public sector continue to empower our workers and communities today. Just this month, when temperatures plunged to dangerous lows, the Baltimore Teachers Union fought for children who were forced to bundle up in coats and hats in their own classrooms because there was no heat in their schools.

Around the country, the SEIU represented hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers who provide in-home healthcare for our Nation's elderly and disabled. In many States, these workers are State employees, and the unions play a crucial role in bargaining for better wages, better training, and in advocating for increased Medicaid funding so they can deliver services to the disabled and the elderly.

Despite the great work these unions have done on behalf of working people, they are constantly under attack by corporate interests determined to cripple the labor movement, and we know why.

Big corporations and the top 1 percent have rigged our economy against working people. They have gamed the system, including our tax laws, to redistribute wealth to a select few. They have starved our economy of investments in education, infrastructure, and housing.